

# SIGHTINGS

the  
**SIGHT**  
CENTER

A Service of the Toledo Society for the Blind  
1812 Canton Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43624  
419/241-1183

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January, 1990

## Tom Day Named Outstanding Volunteer Fund Raiser

For most of his adult life, Tom Day has made a second career of volunteerism. On November 15, he was recognized at a luncheon given by the Toledo Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE), and named the outstanding volunteer fund raiser for 1989.

NSFRE held its first annual observance of National Philanthropy Day at the SeaGate Center, and also honored Mr. and Mrs. Harold McMaster as philanthropists of the year.

Tom Day has always been an ardent supporter of The Sight Center and its development efforts. He has personally contacted many potential donors by phone and letter, arranging to meet them personally to further explain the need for funds on behalf of the agency.

He has also been instrumental in contacting foundations to support special projects. During 1986, Tom headed the first and only Capital Campaign ever run at the agency. Since that success, he has continued as the Chairman of the Development Committee to be instrumental in seeking gifts. Presently, he is securing funds to build the broadcast reading service studio.

Tom Day's talent has benefitted others as well. He was a founding member of St. Timothy's Episcopal



**Mr. and Mrs. Tom Day pose with the award that names him "Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year."**

Church, a veteran board member and supporter of The Sunshine Children's Home, and worked in various volunteer leadership capacities at Riverside Hospital, Toledo Mental Hygiene Clinic, the Economic Development Committee of the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce and United Way.

Mr. Day has remarkable leadership ability and demonstrates an unselfish spirit of volunteerism. Those of us who work with him at The Sight Center are very proud to know him.

## Diabetes 2000 Project Launched at American Academy of Ophthalmology Conference

An educational program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), *Diabetes 2000*, the elimination of preventable blindness from diabetes by the year 2000, was revealed at the annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, last October.

During the opening symposium, an audience of medical professionals from countries throughout the world heard a video address by the Health and Human Services Secretary, Louis Sullivan, M.D. Dr. Sullivan explained the ambitious goals and framework of the project. He expressed the need for groups outside the AAO to become involved in the program's implementation.

Ten million Americans have diabetes mellitus, but only half of them know they have it, according to an Academy publication. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of new blindness among Americans aged 20 to 74, and accounts for at least 12 percent of new cases of blindness each year. Diabetic patients are 25 times more at risk for blindness than is the general population.

The major goal of *Diabetes 2000* is to translate research findings into medical care. The focus is on good control of diabetes in the early stages

of the disease, and the sharing of information with the patient's primary care physician in order to improve access to eye care by ophthalmologists.

In an Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study sponsored by the National Eye Institute, there was evidence of a "knowledge gap among primary care physicians when it comes to diabetic retinopathy," according to Institute Director Carl Kupfer, M.D. Dr. Kupfer further stated in an Academy brochure describing *Diabetes 2000*, that "our investment in high quality clinical research will have little real benefit unless the results . . . are incorporated into patient care."

### DIABETES 2000

ELIMINATING PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS

The *Diabetes 2000* program will be a multiyear phased approach to professional and public education. In Phase I, the educational process will target ophthalmologists, general practice physicians, and diabetic patients to update their knowledge and skills based on the latest information available from clinical trials and other sources. The importance of early diagnosis and

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## Holiday Celebrations Delight Children, Adults



**The holidays were happy ones for the Sight Center's blind and visually impaired clients. At left, Ronald McDonald and Santa team up to charm everyone at the children's Christmas party.**

**At right, Don Drain, Lions Past District Governor, Rita Matthews and her daughter, Marita, were guests of the Toledo (Host) Lions at the club's Annual Christmas Party for the Blind. Over 300 persons were in attendance.**





## Memorial Contributions

*A permanent record is made of memorial contributions and other gifts to The Sight Center. Memorials are promptly acknowledged in accordance with the wishes of the contributor. The following is a list of memorials, gifts in honor of others, and bequests received by The Sight Center from June 1, 1989 to November 17, 1989.*

### In Honor Of

The Birthday of Sanford Green by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Basch  
 The Birthday of Sidney Mostow by Maxine and Lewis Basch  
 The Marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce F. Rumpf by Mr. and Mrs. Barry McEwen  
 The Birthday of Kathryn Schriever by Paula Holmberg  
 The Birthday of William Skutch by Maxine and Lewis Basch  
 The Birthday of Mrs. B. Treuhaff by Maxine and Lewis Basch  
 The Birthday of Pearl Vergiels by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mitchell, Jr.  
 The Special Birthday of Lillian Zaert by Leona and Norman Goldman  
 Kathleen Karol, M.D. and Thomas Mahelus, M.D. by N.W.O. Association of Licensed Opticians  
 The Sight Center programs and services by PB Oil

### In Memory Of

Mary Gertrude Arvidson by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Davison, George and Glenys Gunkel Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reddish, and Mr. and Mrs. Scott Reddish.  
 Erwin Bly by Carstensen Insurance.  
 Nettie Boosenback by Ilo Roper, Carol May, and Kimberly VanVorst.  
 Tom Cochran by Irene Barnhart, Buster, Rhoda, Robin and Megan Miller.  
 Alvin Cogger by Virginia Adamski, Irene Barnhart, Pat Barkowiak, Mr. and Mrs. R. Coehrs, Mrs. Alvin Cogger, Vince and Barbara DiMaio, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Eng, Barbara Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hatfield, Mildred Hite, Edward Jordan, Mary O'Hara, Betty Perz, Kate Partlow, Pat Rodriguez, Mrs. Ray Sharp, Frances Thomas, Edith Vickers, Margaret and Dorothy Werner, Mr. and Mrs. L. Welli, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Zeller.  
 Myrtle A. Connor by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Reed.  
 Freeman Crampton by Charlotte H. Bissell, Mrs. John Caple, Alice M. Champe, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Collins, William Driscoll, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Klein, Mr. and Mrs. Barry McEwen, Mrs. William Miller, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Moor, Margaret and Deane Osborne, Mrs. Carolyn B. Rupert, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Schaeffer, Mr. and Mrs. Ray R. Washing, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Wendt, Viola White.  
 Lester Dasher by Esther Dasher.  
 Donald Davidson by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Reed.  
 Joseph Degnan by Comite Construction.  
 Mary Ford by Richard W. Aubry and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Ebersole, and Allan and Margaret Kaufman.  
 Mrs. Selma Frose by Mrs. Carl Marlow.  
 Wava B. Frost by Marge and Earnest J. Henges.  
 Edmund Ginski by Mrs. Francis Linniger, Julie Penn-Porter, and Kathleen Wielinski.

## We Collect Old Eye Glasses

What good are used eye glasses? Most people keep them in a drawer and are reluctant to throw them out because they cost so much to purchase.

But, people who live in third world countries can use them to see well, perhaps for the first time.

When you donate used eye glasses to



*Recent collectors and contributors of used eye glasses are: (left) Tracy and Eleanor Woodruff of the Lindsey Lions and Lionesses Clubs with Sight Center President Barry McEwen, (middle) Joni Downing of The Andersons with Sight Center's Volunteer Coordinator, Jeanette Hrovatich, and (right) Jay Strank of the West Toledo Lions Club also with Mr. McEwen.*

The Sight Center, a volunteer screens and separates them. Those with gold frames are disassembled and the gold is sent to be melted. The proceeds are added to The Sight Center's operating fund.

Most of the glasses collected, however, are plastic. These are packed, and with the help of the Maumee Lions, are transported to the Optometric School at Ohio State University. Students determine the prescription of the glasses



and mark them accordingly.

When doctors from our area go to third world countries to set up eye camps, they take thousands of pairs with them. There are stories of persons walking for two or three days to stand in line, get an eye exam, and walk away wearing a pair of new-to-them glasses. So don't throw them away. Bring them to us. The Sight Center accepts used glasses daily during business hours.

## Bequests

Arthur Hickok  
 Clarence and Daisy Hickok  
 Jane E. Fry  
 Cornelia E. Roach  
 Harrie R. Danley  
 Orelia Asmus  
 Webster Sturdivant  
 Mildred M. Vinson  
 Harry N. Barnard

## Diabetes 2000 continued from page 1

treatment will be stressed, as well as the role of the ophthalmologist as the physician uniquely qualified to treat diabetic retinopathy. Efforts will be made to strengthen relationships between ophthalmologists and the primary care physicians through joint meetings and symposia. Additionally, there will be an outreach to agencies who serve diabetic clients, attempting to identify the barriers to treatment for eye care as well as giving attention to other prevalent and complex health issues facing the diabetic.

The project's structure is headed by Ronald Smith, M.D., the Academy's Secretary for Continuing Education. Dr. Arnall Parz, a Baltimore ophthalmologist, is the Chairperson for *Diabetes 2000*. He explained the program in detail at the New Orleans meeting. "We feel that ophthalmologists working together can have a significant impact on this major public health problem," he said.

Edna Oberly by Dave and Phyllis Brimmer, Alice and Bob Oberly, and Dick and Carol Spoerl.

Ann-Brita Page by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Basch, Daveda Bailey, Bleckner & Bleckner Insurance Agency, Bob and Sally Bogart, Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Brooks, Mary B. Brooks, Deanna Davey, Mrs. R. D. Deutsch, Leona and Norman Goldman, Dr. and Mrs. Hartung, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hehl, Elaine Hershman, Mr. and Mrs. Lester A. Korb, Walter and Doris Lehman, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. MacMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Barry McEwen, Mrs. End C. Schnitker, Susan and Ralph Shawaker, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Thompson, and Mrs. Frederick Thompson, Jr.

Charles Perlman by Mr. and Mrs. Norman A. Goldman.

Elizabeth Pokorney by Florence Kunzler.

John Pokorney by Florence Kunzler.

Marian Purnia by Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lechak, Walter Weller Auxiliary No. 135 and the Men of the Hydramatic Metrology Lab.

Helen Roberts by Fred Genzan and David and Cheryl Pyle.

Frances Sanzenbacher by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Trauger.

Gus Scarvelis by Mr. and Mrs. William Ash, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Marcos Madias, Mr. and Mrs. Cosmas A. Allapoulos, William Ash, Mr. and Mrs. George Dimit, Home Builders Association, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Katz, Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Knowles, Gloria and Charles Mouloupoulos and Angie Stratos.

Sister of Shirley Fox by Maxine and Lewis Basch.  
 Sister of Mrs. Stanley Nathanson by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Basch.  
 Diane Sickles by Al and Wanda McEwen.  
 Emil Speweiki by Bernice Flynn ad Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Reed.  
 James Staebell by Al and Wanda McEwen.  
 Dorothy Stark-Goldsmith by June and Mearl Huffman.  
 Esther V. Stoll by East Toledo Junior High Staff.

Betty Wendt by Mr. and Mrs. John Arvidson, Mrs. Pearl Duganiero, and Mary and F. Ted Wendt.  
 Roger B. Williams by Arthur Hills and Associates.



# Justice and Disability

*A Message from the President and CEO*

**Barry A. McEwen**

Freedom to choose, equal rights, justice for all. All of these are concepts of the American ideal. Yet, the struggle to enjoy the rights and privileges afforded to most of us continues in the disabled community, particularly among the blind and visually impaired.

A case in point is that of Avraham Rabby, a 46 year old man with degrees in Spanish and French from Oxford University in England, and a master's degree in business from the University of Chicago. He has lived in England, France, and Spain. He has passed the State Department entrance examination five times with hopes to become a diplomat. No doubt his credentials are impressive. But, this United States citizen is blind.

An Associated Press story quoted Mr. Rabby as "absolutely outraged" at the State Department's decision to disqualify his application. A *Toledo Blade* editorial agreed with the decision, stating the need for ambassadors overseas to "fully understand the culture and society of their host countries . . . recognizing the significance of gestures, winks, nods, . . . wars have even been fought—because of the misunderstandings that grew out of such incidents." What one seems to disregard, however, is that those interpretations that led to battles were made by sighted persons.

Mr. Rabby's struggle continued, and the decision was reversed. Rep. Gerry Sikorski (D.Minn.), quoted in a *New York Times* article, applauded the 180

degree turn by the State Department. "I am glad that the State Department has changed its policy and opened its door to all qualified individuals who wish to serve our country abroad," she said.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that the government must "reasonably accommodate" the disabled. In the same news story, a deputy assistant secretary for personnel reported that the department was looking into the possibility of hiring spouses of blind Foreign Service officers as readers.

Hats off to Mr. Rabby, and to Richard Withey, the mayor of Woodhaven, the first blind mayor in modern Michigan history. Both are qualified public servants. The world should remember Helen Keller, who seemed to have great impact on the world's heads of state during her lifetime. Through blind and deaf, her example promoted interaction with all peoples of the world. She represented international harmony, understanding, and respect for mankind.

We cannot afford to have the State Department, or any other portion of our government, label any of us as "second class citizens." Blind and visually impaired individuals are appropriate candidates for most jobs, including those in the foreign service, provided they meet all the prescribed criteria. To say they are not, negates the notion of equality that is basic to our national ideal.

## Meet the Sight Center Family



**Judy Schermer is the Sight Center's new Rehabilitation Teacher.**

Judy Schermer is a southwestern Michigan native who came to Toledo via Slingerlands, New York. She attended Dr. Martin Luther College in Minnesota and graduated from

Western Michigan University with a baccalaureate degree in Social Work. She also earned a Masters in Blind Rehabilitation at Western.

After graduation, Judy joined the Northeastern Association for the Blind in Slingerlands, New York, where she worked in rehabilitation, primarily in the community with the elderly. Judy will handle the caseload previously assigned to Helen Boduch. Helen has recently married and is moving to Kansas.

Judy has a son, Aaron, age 4. She admits to being a thoroughbred racing buff, and has had the opportunity to attend the Kentucky Derby on several occasions. She is happy to be closer to her sister who lives in Cincinnati (just down the road from Lexington) and her Michigan area family.

We welcome Judy to Toledo. She looks forward to meeting with clients and volunteers of The Sight Center.

## Glasses For The Needy

Where do you go to get eye glasses if you have no money to pay for them? Many people call The Sight Center. Sometimes, we are able to help them find necessary funds through local Lions Clubs or other philanthropic organizations. In fact, one organization has recently contributed to the purchase of glasses and exams for children. At present, we are in need of additional funding for adults.

Currently, over 175 persons are on a waiting list for consideration for eye exams and glasses. Eligibility is based on income and financial obligations.

If you or your group would like to help someone see better, please call Barry McEwen at The Sight Center. We can share your gift with someone in need.

## Personnel Shortage in Blind Rehab Field

Looking for a rewarding career? The Sight Center is indeed fortunate to have qualified rehabilitation teachers and orientation and mobility instructors on staff. However, there is a critical shortage of personnel in blind rehabilitation nationwide.

Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Department of Blind Rehabilitation, has received federal funding to provide a substantial amount of financial aid to qualified students seeking a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Teaching or Orientation and Mobility. Potential students who want to pursue a career opportunity in the field of visual impairment and blindness should contact William Wiener, Chairperson, at (616) 387-3456, or Don Stevens at The Sight Center.

## The Board Votes on New Construction and New Faces

With a major portion of the fund raising completed for the broadcast reading studio, the Sight Center Board authorized its construction. The project began the week of Christmas and will be completed in late February. SCAN, the Sight Center Audio Network, will lengthen its on-air hours as a result. Presently, the service provides news and other information from the *Toledo Blade* and *The Daily Sentinel-Tribune* from Bowling Green. Additional programming will include the presentation of local weekly papers from The Sight Center's 23 county service area. SCAN is carried on the second audio program (SAP) channels of WBGU-TV, Channel 27 and WGTE-TV, Channel 30.

### New Board Members

Three new board members will serve one year unexpired terms. They are Art Edgerton, Katherine Ray and Connie

### New Mission Statement

The Sight Center Board of Trustees adopted the following mission statement at their December meeting. The mission of the Sight Center is "to provide services that maximize the independence of individuals who are blind or visually impaired and to minimize the incidence of blindness through education and prevention."

## Welcome 1990!

The Sight Center large print calendars are ready for distribution. They are free to visually impaired clients. Supplies are limited. If you qualify, please call The Sight Center at (419) 241-1183 or 1-800-624-8378.



**The Happy Times Club is a Sight Center recreation group that has met for over 60 years. Jean Weber, Pat Clay, Mary Ellen Smith, Judy Williamson and Colleen Roth enjoy a late autumn cruise down the Maumee.**



## Donors Sought for Lasting Gifts

An unique program called **Future Sight** gives Sight Center donors the ability to make a annual pledge or a one-time contribution that will be used to purchase an endowment life insurance policy in the name of the giver. The agency will own the policy and be the designated beneficiary. Contributions, through a five year pledge or a single donation, will establish the donor as a Sight Center benefactor.

The program is designed for persons aged 18 to 65. It has these advantages.

1. *The contribution is fully tax deductible.*
2. *There are no insurance forms to fill out.*
3. *There are no medical questions to answer.*
4. *No insurance agent is given the names of the donors.*
5. *An affordable donation becomes a substantial gift.*
6. *The endowment can honor or memorialize a loved one.*
7. *The generosity of the giver works for the present and the future.*

For example, an annual pledge of \$1,500 for five years, from a person aged 41-50 represents a \$25,000 gift to The Sight Center. A portion of the money received is used for operating expenses. The rest purchases a whole life policy on the person making the contribution. At the time of the donor's death, the agency collects the face value of the policy.

The Toledo Society for the Blind is looking for some special gifts from special people. Many of these persons are already providing some on-going support. The Board of Trustees Development Committee feels that this new donor option will provide a legacy for the future.

## Most Blindness Is Preventable

Nearly half of all eye injuries in the United States occur in the workplace. The construction and automotive industry accounted for almost 80 percent of these job-related afflictions according to a 1988 report by the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. It was determined that many of the severe injuries in the study could have been prevented by the use of protective eye wear.

At The Sight Center, we are concerned about industrial eye safety. For an informative presentation on how blindness can be prevented in the workplace, call The Sight Center at (419) 241-1183.

## Eye Care Helpline Established for Needy Elderly

Across the country, some ophthalmologists have volunteered to provide medical eye care for disadvantaged elderly persons at no out-of-pocket expense to the patient. Those who qualify for the National Eye Care Project will be matched with an ophthalmologist in or near their city or town.

To qualify for treatment, the patient must be 65 years of age or older, a US citizen, and no longer have access to the eye physician or surgeon that he or she has seen in the past. Eye disease is prevalent among the elderly, and a frequent cause of blindness. The National Eye Care project is designed to detect and treat eye disease, but does not allow payment for glasses, prescription drugs, or hospital care.

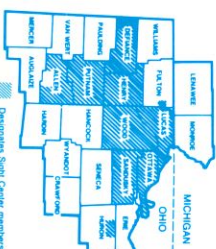
In Ohio alone, over 1,500 persons have taken advantage of this free service. Interested persons should contact the toll-free Helpline at 1-800-222-3937, weekdays between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.



**Trilby Elementary School 6th graders collected toys to make a happy Christmas for some underprivileged children. The Sight Center was able to share them with several needy clients.**



The Toledo Society for the Blind/**The Sight Center** is a private, independent, non-profit agency serving 23 counties in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The agency is a participant in United Way funding in the counties of Defiance, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Putnam, Sandusky, and Wood, and in the cities of Archbold, Lima, Norwalk, and Swanton.



The Toledo Society for the Blind/**The Sight Center** has been serving the community since 1923. Its mission is to provide services that maximize the independence of individuals who are blind or visually impaired and to minimize the incidence of blindness through education and prevention.

Sightings is published by **The Sight Center**. All comments and correspondence should be sent to: Kathleen Kozy, Vice President/Communications, The Sight Center, 1819 Canton St., Toledo, OH 43624-1380; (419) 241-1183 or 1-800-624-8378.

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